

<h1>County Of Sonoma</h1> <h2>Agenda Item</h2> <h2>Summary Report</h2>		Clerk of the Board Use Only Meeting Date /      /																									
		Agenda Item No: _____																									
<b>Department:</b> Sonoma County Water Agency, and Permit and Resource Management Department		<div>4/5 Vote Not Required</div>																									
<b>Name and Phone Number:</b> Marcus Trotta - 547-1978 DeWayne Starnes – 565-1103	<b>Board Date:</b> 10/18/2011	<b>Deadline for Board Action:</b>																									
<b>AGENDA SHORT TITLE:</b> Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan Development.																											
<b>REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:</b> See supplemental page.																											
<h3>CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT</h3> <table border="0"> <tr> <td colspan="2"><u>EXPENDITURES:</u></td> <td colspan="2"><u>ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Estimated Cost</td> <td>\$142,480</td> <td>Contingencies (Fund Name:)</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amount Budgeted</td> <td>\$142,480</td> <td>Unanticipated Revenue (Source:)</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Available Appropriations (Explain Below)</td> <td>\$0</td> <td>Other Transfers (Source:)</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Additional Funds Requested</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Additional Requested</td> <td>\$0</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Explanation (if required):</b> Funding is available in FY 11/12 budget in the Recycled Water Local Supply Fund (Account 675736-6570) \$135,200 and SCWA General Fund (Account 672105-6570) \$7,280.</p>				<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>		<u>ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:</u>		Estimated Cost	\$142,480	Contingencies (Fund Name:)	\$0	Amount Budgeted	\$142,480	Unanticipated Revenue (Source:)	\$0	Other Available Appropriations (Explain Below)	\$0	Other Transfers (Source:)	\$0			Additional Funds Requested	\$0	Additional Requested	\$0		
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<p><b>Prior Board Action:</b> <b>05/03/2011</b> Board authorization to develop a work plan and funding agreement for developing a voluntary AB303 Groundwater Management Plan for the Santa Rosa Plain; <b>01/12/2010</b> Board authorization to implement 2010 Work Plan for Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Preliminary Planning; <b>08/2005 – 06/2010</b> Board approval for Cooperative Agreement to Provide Funding and Support Information for Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Study and subsequent five amended agreements; <b>08/2001 – 11/2004</b> Board approval for Joint Funding for FFYs 2005, 2004, 2003, and 2001/2002 with U.S. Geological Survey to conduct cooperative study of groundwater resources in Sonoma County; <b>01/25/2000</b> Concurrent direction to PRMD and the Sonoma County Water Agency to develop a proposed study program to evaluate groundwater resources in Sonoma County.</p>																											
<p><b>Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:</b> A groundwater management plan for the Santa Rosa Plain will not be developed. Non-approval of this item could result in the Water Agency losing \$250,000 in funds recently awarded for the project by the California Department of Water Resources and reduce the ability of the Water Agency and other water purveyors in the region to receive future grant funds.</p>																											

**Background:**

This item seeks Board approval of a cooperative agreement between and among Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) and County of Sonoma Permit and Resources Management Department (Sonoma County), City of Cotati, City of Santa Rosa, City of Sebastopol, City of Rohnert Park, Town of Windsor, and California American Water Company (collectively referred to as Participants) to develop a Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan.

**OVERVIEW**

The Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Basin (Basin) covers an area of approximately 80,000 acres and is home to approximately half of the population of Sonoma County. The groundwater system beneath the Santa Rosa Plain provides numerous benefits to the region, including rural residential and municipal water supplies, irrigation water for agriculture, and baseflow to streams and surface water bodies. Water Agency, City of Cotati, City of Santa Rosa, City of Sebastopol, City of Rohnert Park, Town of Windsor, and California American Water Company utilize groundwater from the Basin for all or part of their municipal water supply. The County of Sonoma is interested in the adequacy of the groundwater supply in the unincorporated areas of the Basin.

As part of a technical study program intended to enhance the current knowledge regarding groundwater resources within Sonoma County, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Water Agency initiated a five-year study of groundwater resources within the Basin in 2005. The cooperative study, which is jointly funded and supported by the Water Agency, USGS, County of Sonoma, City of Santa Rosa, City of Rohnert Park, City of Sebastopol, City of Cotati, Town of Windsor, and California American Water Company, is scheduled for publication in 2012.

An integrated strategy being undertaken statewide by many local agencies is to develop and implement non-regulatory, voluntary groundwater management plans in compliance with the 1992 Assembly Bill 3030 (AB3030) and the 2002 Senate Bill 1938 (SB1938). Such a plan has been successfully developed and implemented in Sonoma Valley and development of such a plan for the Santa Rosa Plain is one of the immediate actions identified in the Water Agency's Water Supply Strategy No. Five (Work with Stakeholders to Promote Sound, Information-Based Water Supply Planning Programs) of the Water Supply Strategies Action Plan. There can be multiple potential benefits to developing and implementing a groundwater management plan including increased water supply reliability, minimized adverse impacts to groundwater, enhanced local management of groundwater resources, and economic opportunities through available state grant funding programs.

In 2009, the Center for Collaborative Policy, California State University, Sacramento (CCP) conducted an impartial assessment of issues and concerns related to groundwater management for the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Basin and to learn if and how stakeholders might want to address these issues. This assessment demonstrated support for groundwater management planning if certain pre-planning would occur to lay the foundation for a phased groundwater management planning process. Based on these findings and direction received from the Board in January 2010, the Water Agency convened a Steering Committee in April 2010 to address groundwater stakeholder concerns, oversee a public education and outreach effort to build common understanding about groundwater and develop recommendations on whether groundwater management should proceed. The Steering Committee consists of members that represent the following interest groups:

- 1) Business
- 2) Agriculture
- 3) Environmental and community organizations
- 4) Government
- 5) Water supply and groundwater technical issues
- 6) Rural residential well owners

The Steering Committee met six times in 2010, held three educational public workshops involving nearly 200 people and conducted briefings with 20 organizations. Based on the understanding gained through these

outreach activities, in January 2011 the Steering Committee recommended that stakeholders collaboratively develop a non-regulatory, voluntary groundwater management plan for the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Basin under AB 3030.

In May 2011, the Water Agency's Board directed staff to prepare a work plan and funding agreement with local partners for development of a groundwater management planning process. The Water Agency retained Parker Groundwater, Inc., to prepare the Work Plan, which is included as Exhibit B to the Proposed Agreement. The Work Plan recommends convening a Basin Advisory Panel to include stakeholders that participate, contribute, and lead the groundwater management planning process. Conceptually, the Basin Advisory Panel would consist of 25-30 members representing key groundwater interests: Agriculture (Dairies, Farmers & Grape Growers and Wineries); Business/Developers; Environmental; Government (Tribal, State, County, and Cities); Public Health; Rural Residential Well Owners; and Water Supply & Groundwater Technical Expertise. Center for Collaborative Policy impartial mediators would work with individual organizations to identify representatives and to assure that the Basin Advisory Panel's composition is representative of all groundwater interest groups.

Water Agency and County staff and Participants agree it is in the public interest to work collaboratively with other entities or individuals whose service areas, boundaries, or properties overlie the Basin.

#### PROPOSED AGREEMENT

The purpose of the proposed Cooperative Agreement to Provide Funding and Support for Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan Development (Agreement) is to: (1) provide a funding mechanism by which a not-to-exceed total cost of \$260,000 may be contributed by the Participants to pay for the first two years of conducting a groundwater management planning process in the Santa Rosa Plain; and (2) establish a working relationship among technical staff, together with tools and protocols that will be necessary for the success of the groundwater management planning process.

The cost to fund technical consultants and facilitation to develop a groundwater management plan is estimated to be approximately \$400,000 over a period of two years. It is understood that some level of in-kind staff services will also be provided by Participants. The Water Agency has recently been awarded a \$220,000 grant as part of Proposition 84 Planning Grant through the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, which is anticipated to contribute \$110,000 toward funding the technical consultant and facilitation costs needed to implement the work plan. The remaining \$110,000 from the Proposition 84 Planning Grant is funding Water Agency staff costs to develop the groundwater management plan. An agreement for receiving the Proposition 84 Planning Grant funding will be brought to the Board as a subsequent agenda item. The Water Agency has also secured an additional \$30,000 from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to partially fund facilitation services for the effort, resulting in a total of \$250,000 in outside funding (\$140,000 of which is being applied toward technical consultant and facilitation costs). The remaining portion of the consultant support services and resources necessary for the project (\$260,000) would be funded by the Participants through the proposed Agreement.

The Water Agency and Participants have negotiated a projected cost-sharing for development of a groundwater management plan, which is included as Exhibit D to the proposed Agreement. The Water Agency's share of the \$260,000 associated with the proposed Agreement is \$135,200 which is available from the Water Agency's Recycled Water Local Supply Fund; the County's share is \$7,280 which is available from the Water Agency's General Fund. It is assumed that during the two years covered by this Agreement, the groundwater management plan would be completed. Should the groundwater plan require longer to complete, additional funding may be required that would be subject to approval by Participants and appropriate agreement or amendment to the proposed Agreement.

#### AUTHORITY TO AMEND AGREEMENT

The work to be conducted under the Agreement is a stakeholder-driven process. The ability to respond to stakeholder decisions without compromising the project schedule is critical, as not meeting the project

schedule may jeopardize up to \$250,000 in grant funding from by DWR. Therefore, staff request authority for the Water Agency's General Manager and County's Permit and Resource Management Department Director to amend the Agreement provided the amendments do not cumulatively increase the total cost to the Water Agency or County by more than \$25,000.

#### TERMINATION

The Agreement includes provisions for any Participant to terminate its participation in the Agreement by giving ninety (90) calendar days advance written notice to all other parties. Termination does not relieve the Participant of its obligation to pay costs due before the effective date of the termination. Staff request authority for the Water Agency's General Manager and the County's Director of Permit and Resource Management Department to terminate participation in the Agreement, if appropriate.

#### FUTURE CONSULTING AGREEMENTS

Future agreements for technical consulting services and facilitation services to be funded under the proposed Agreement will be brought to the Board for approval on a later date.

**Attachments:** None.

**On File With Clerk:** 4 copies agreement

#### CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

**Board Action (If other than "Requested")**

**Vote:**